

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter assembly comprising:
an outer catheter and an inner catheter that can be inserted into said outer catheter;
said outer catheter being comprised an outer catheter body comprising at least an inner layer, an outer layer, and a reinforcing layer interposed between them, a flexible soft tip attached to a distal end of said outer catheter body, and an outer catheter hub attached to a proximal end of said outer catheter body;
said inner catheter being comprised a hard proximal part, a distal part softer than said hard proximal part, and an inner catheter hub formed at a proximal end of the proximal part, and
wherein said outer catheter hub and said inner catheter hub are adapted to be disengaged from each other so that said inner catheter is removable from said outer catheter and said outer catheter hub and said inner catheter hub are adapted to be fixed engaged with each other so that said two catheters do not rotate and move relative to each other, and
wherein, when said outer catheter hub and said inner catheter hub engage each other, at least a part of said inner catheter protrudes from a distal end of said outer catheter, with the distance between the distal end of said outer catheter and a distal end of said inner catheter being no more than 10 mm.

2. (Original) The catheter assembly as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the inner catheter comprises a second soft tip with flexibility at the distal end.

3. (Original) The catheter assembly as set forth in Claim 2, wherein the second soft tip comprises a larger wall thickness than the soft tip of the outer catheter.

4. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the distal part of the outer catheter body comprises a predetermined curved portion.

5. (Original) The catheter assembly as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the outer catheter hub is engaged with the inner catheter hub in such a way that the boundary between the hard proximal end and the flexible distal end of the inner catheter is located on the proximal side from the curved portion of the outer catheter body.

6. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the inner catheter is of single-layer structure made of a resin containing no reinforcing material over the entire length.

7. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the outer catheter comprises a size such that the ratio of the outside diameter to the inside diameter is no smaller than 0.89 and no larger than 0.95.

8. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the outer catheter comprises a wall thickness smaller than that of the inner catheter.

9. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 2, wherein the distal part of the outer catheter body comprises a predetermined curved portion.

10. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 3, wherein the distal part of the outer catheter body comprises a predetermined curved portion.

11. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 2, wherein the inner catheter is of single-layer structure made of a resin containing no reinforcing material over the entire length.

12. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 3, wherein the inner catheter is of single-layer structure made of a resin containing no reinforcing material over the entire length.

13. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 4, wherein the inner catheter is of single-layer structure made of a resin containing no reinforcing material over the entire length.

14. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 5, wherein the inner catheter is of single-layer structure made of a resin containing no reinforcing material over the entire length.

15. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 2, wherein the outer catheter comprises a size such that the ratio of the outside diameter to the inside diameter is no smaller than 0.89 and no larger than 0.95.

16. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 3, wherein the outer catheter comprises a size such that the ratio of the outside diameter to the inside diameter is no smaller than 0.89 and no larger than 0.95.

17. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 4, wherein the outer catheter comprises a size such that the ratio of the outside diameter to the inside diameter is no smaller than 0.89 and no larger than 0.95.

18. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the outer catheter comprises a wall thickness smaller than that of the inner catheter.

19. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 2, wherein the outer catheter comprises a wall thickness smaller than that of the inner catheter.

20. (Previously Presented) The catheter assembly as set forth in claim 3, wherein the outer catheter comprises a wall thickness smaller than that of the inner catheter.